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MEETING MINUTES
STATE CONSUMER AND FAMILY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 11, 2009

Present: Nancy Black, Wilda Brown, Gladys Christian, Marianne Clayter, Zack Commander, Bill Cook, Kathy Crocker, Roger Griesinger, Laura Keeney, Ron Kendrick, Carl Noyes, Renee Sisk, Andrea Stevens, Amelia Thorpe, Rosemary Weaver and Glenda Woodson.

Absent: Terry Burgess, Libby Jones, Paul Russ, David Taylor Jr.

Staff Present: Leza Wainwright, Flo Stein, Bill Scott, Cathy Kocian, and Jesse Sowa.

Guests: Fred Johnson and Brianna Woodson.

Presenter & Topic	Discussion	Action
Welcome: Ron Kendrick, SCFAC Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.• Cathy Kocian stated that Stuart Berde will be at the August SCFAC meeting, and that he regretfully could not attend today's meeting.• Ron Kendrick expressed condolences to Paul Russ and his family for the loss of his wife Mollie, of 37 years.	The agenda was approved. The April minutes were approved.
In Memory of Chris Phillips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCFAC members decided to dedicate the June 2009 SCFAC meeting in Chris Phillips' memory. SCFAC members expressed their feelings surrounding the loss of Chris Phillips. Ron Kendrick stated that Chris made a lot of contributions and he had tremendous respect for him. The following sentiments were expressed by SCFAC members:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Chris was a tremendous person who rose up against barriers (Wilda Brown).○ My heart goes out to his family (Zack Commander).○ Chris was consistently willing to share information and serve others (Amelia Thorpe).○ Roger Griesinger and Rosemary Weaver mentioned that he was impressed by his commitment to follow through with promises made.○ Marianne Clayter was saddened by his depth of discomfort.○ Kathy Crocker is concerned with the most appropriate way to advise the Secretary and others on suicide and address stigma.○ The stigma is within the field and professionals need to make it a priority to seek help as needed (Laura Keeney).	
Public Comment Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In order to assist with cost saving measures, SCFAC members voted to eliminate afternoon snacks for the remainder of the calendar year. Plus, there is no July and December SCFAC meeting due to an earlier vote by committee	

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	<p>members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary Weaver recognized Leza Wainwright, Cathy Kocian, and Jesse Sowa for all of the wonderful work and support that they provide to the SCFAC throughout the year. Ron Kendrick mentioned that Leza Wainwright is the most knowledgeable of issues on going within the system. • Cathy Kocian advised the SCFAC members that R.J. Blackley ADATC has a vacant position on their Human Rights Committee. The vacant slot is designated for a substance abuse (SA) client or SA family member. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who is interested, please have them contact Wendi McDaniel, Team Leader State Facilities Advocate at 919-715-3197 or via email Wendi.McDaniel@ncmail.net. 	
<p>Discussion with Division Leadership Leza Wainwright</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leza gave an update on the current budget issues and distributed a current handout that outlined the budget proposals from the Governor, Senate and House. Once the bill passes the House it will go to conference with the House and Senate. The Conference Conferees will probably be appointed by the first of next week, and then they will have the job of reviewing the proposed budget and revenue issues. The House has had a very difficult job with the budget due to shortfalls revealed after the Governor and Senate proposed their version of the budget. DHHS makes up 23% of the budget and the Division of MH/DD/SAS is taking a 50% cut. • The State prepares two budgets each year, the Continuation and Expansion budget. The Continuation budget can be adjusted, but there can be no new expenses added to this budget. The Expansion budget allows new expenses added to the budget. • Leza commented on the development of the new Electronic Health Record system, which is being funded through the Federal Recovery Act. These records will assist providers and medical personnel with medical records and confidentiality issues. • Carl Noyes stated that he is concerned about the elimination of Community Support Services (CSS) and the impact this will have on consumers and providers. Leza acknowledged that there are currently 37,359 consumers receiving CSS, of which 33,636 are Medicaid consumers and 3,723 are state funded consumers. The consumers would be left with out-patient therapy. • All three budgets will freeze provider rates, and currently there is a 3-3.5% reduction rate proposed across the board for all providers. One and only one case manager would be allowed per consumer regardless if the case involves DSS and/or mental health. An individual would not be allowed to have two case managers (i.e., foster care case manager and a mental health case manager). Finally, no one new would be added to the Cap waiver over the next two years. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCFAC members stated that people need to better understand the dynamics of <i>suicide</i> as it relates to mental illness. It is also imperative for Senators and Representatives to understand the serious aspects of all three disability categories and consider the ramifications on family members. • Roger Griesinger suggested that more money needs to be raised and this could occur with increased taxes. SCFAC members discussed the need to raise revenue through increased taxes on alcohol, beer and cigarettes. Andrea Stevens commented on the need to advise the GA in an official way in order to get the message across regarding consumers and family member's lives are different from that of the elected officials. The real consequences include homelessness, loss of services and incarceration. • SCFAC members voted unanimously to draft an official position statement in order to clearly inform the Senators and Representatives on how the proposed cuts will affect people's lives. In addition, the advisory letter will include the support of increased sales, alcohol, beer and cigarette tax. In addition, it's imperative that creative solutions be implemented. • Leza discussed the recent transition of Albemarle Mental Health Center (AMHC) and all 95 staff members were given pink slips and will no longer be employed with AMHC effective July 1, 2009. However, several local providers have agreed to hire all clinicians. To date, there are only about 8-10 people who don't know whether they will retire or take other jobs elsewhere. 	
Financial Statement Bill Scott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Scott, Budget and Finance Team Leader, provided SCFAC members with a PowerPoint training on <i>How to Read a Financial Statement</i>. It would be beneficial for everyone reading a financial statement to look for changes or differences in spending throughout the specified time period. The following categories were reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assets, ○ Property and Equipment, ○ Liabilities and Net assets, ○ Cash Flow, ○ Statement of Functional Expenses, and ○ Quarterly Total. 	
Substance Abuse Presentation Flo Stein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flo Stein, Chief of Community Policy Management, continued her substance abuse (SA) PowerPoint presentation from April's SCFAC meeting. Members reviewed the handout <i>The Publicly-Funded Substance Abuse Recovery Oriented System of Care</i>. • Flo Stein is the current President of the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Inc (NASADAD). SCFAC members received the June 2009 NASADAD Policy Brief: Health Reform. The top priority of this organization is to make sure that there is coverage for SA services across the country. The SA Block grant is the largest funding source for SA services at 	

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	<p>this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flo expressed deep sympathy for the loss of Chris Phillips and stated, “These disabilities can be life threatening to people regardless of their time in recovery. People need to be valued and treated with dignity and the barriers to recovery need to be eliminated.” Bill Cook inquired about the current fourteen day treatment programs. Flo stated that rehabilitation is no longer provided, but people are able to receive medical stabilization and consumers are to receive these services in their local communities. There are four levels of treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostic Assessment, SA Community Support Services-Adult & Team, Mobile Crisis Management. Level II.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA IOP Level II.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA COT Level III.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA HWH Level III.5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Non-Medical Community Residential Treatment Level III.7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SA Medically Monitored Residential Treatment Level IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inpatient Hospital SA Treatment. Presently, there is a federal law specific to families involved with child welfare titled <i>Adoption & Safe Families Act</i>. The law requires women to prove their ability to care for their children within 12 months of SA treatment or lose children permanently. Additional information can be located http://www.nicwa.org/law/asfa/ASFALL.pdf. The Division of MH/DD/SAS has a team comprised of a MH, DD, and SA specialist called the Justice Systems Innovation Team. Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC) is one of the projects overseen by this group of specialists, and the focus is to link treatment and justice goals of reduced drug use and criminal activity. Information can be found http://www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas/saip/index.htm. Currently, there is Standardized Screening tool used to assess individuals and Bob Kurtz, Justice Systems Innovation Team member, would be able to provide more information on this tool. 	
SCFAC Work Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roger Griesinger stated that he recently has been in contact with Senator 	Cathy Kocian will send an invitation

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Wilda Brown	<p>Douglas Berger, Co-Chair of the Appropriations on Health and Human Service Senate Standing Committee. The Senator represents Grandville, Franklin, Vance and Warren Counties. Roger suggested that SCFAC members provide 3 ways to solve the problems when bringing issues to their Senators and Representatives. SCFAC members agreed to invite Senator Berger to the August SCFAC meeting. The following discussion points were suggested for the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The committee is interested in knowing how they can support the Senator in learning more about people with MH/DD/SA disabilities. ○ In addition, the group would like the Senator to address how he views the MH/DD/SA system in his current role as Co-Chair of the Appropriations on Health and Human Service Senate Standing Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SCFAC members voted unanimously to draft an official position statement regarding the current budget reductions. In addition, the letter will be formatted into a template for local CFACs to use if they so chose. The following points will be addressed in the letter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How people's lives are going to be affected with proposed cuts. ○ SCFAC supports increased cigarette, alcohol, beer and sales tax. ○ The possibility of lowering personal exemptions. ○ SCFAC is going to suggest that creative solutions be considered before making any final drastic cuts. 	<p>to Senator Berger requesting that he attend the August 13, 2009 SCFAC meeting.</p> <p>Kathy Crocker, Rosemary Weaver and Nancy Black will draft the position statement</p> <p>Cathy Kocian will distribute the position letter via email to all Senate and House Conference Conferees as soon as the official list of members is posted.</p>
Next Meeting Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The next meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2009 from 9:30 A.M.-3:00 P.M. The meeting will be held in the Four Sisters Room at the Clarion Hotel State Capital, 320 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, N.C. 	
August 2009 Meeting Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approval of the Agenda. ● Approval of the June 2009 minutes. ● Introduction of Stuart Berde. ● Discussion with Division Leadership. ● Senator Doug Berger. ● Task Team Work Sessions. 	
Future Agenda		